

Missouri State Library

Show Me *Express*

Published by Secretary of State Robin Carnahan

May 27, 2011

Show Me Express features time-sensitive information about State Library programs and current news of interest to the Missouri library community.

SPECIAL EDITION

Latest Updates on Joplin Libraries

The Joplin Public Libraries did not sustain any damage from the devastating tornado that struck the city on May 22. However many of the library staff were affected. Ten staff lost their homes, and two employees sustained minor injuries. The library has been trying to maintain normal hours with a skeleton crew. More and more residents are coming in every day to use the computers. They have set up their laptop lab for overflow from the regular lab. MOREnet is sending staff to the area to assist with setting up additional computers at the library. The Library's [Facebook page](#) is being used to communicate point-of-need library services as well as for posting information about missing persons, donations needed, and relief efforts.

Missouri Southern State University did not sustain any tornado damage and according to Wendy McGrane, Library Director at Missouri Southern State University, all of the library employees have been safely located. The campus is being used as a shelter, triage site and volunteer coordination area.

St. John's Hospital in Joplin has been evacuated and the structure is being secured and assessed. The medical librarian at St. John's in Joplin and her family are fine. Holly Henderson, Medical Library Director of the St. John's Health System has stated that St. John's Medical Library in Springfield is available to serve any health information needs in Joplin and surrounding communities. Mercy is posting information at www.mercy.net as it becomes available about the St. John's Joplin hospital and coworkers.

According to a May 24, 2011 article in the Joplin Globe, the Joplin High School, Franklin Technical Center, and Irving and Emerson elementary schools were destroyed. McKinley, Kelsey Norman, Cecil Floyd and Duenweg elementary schools sustained

damage of various levels, as did the administration building on 15th Street. The new East Middle School also was hit; the auditorium is gone, and the building has sustained severe water damage, according to school officials. The district is using social media as its primary method of communicating with students and families, especially through Facebook. Officials are encouraging all students and faculty members to check in and thus far a majority of the teachers have done so.

Wolfner Library Patrons in Joplin

Displaced Wolfner Library patrons who need replacement audio players and books should contact their Wolfner reader advisors. Machines and books will be mailed to the Joplin Public Library for patron pickup.

ALA Response to Joplin Libraries

Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA will be in contact with the libraries in Joplin whose staff have been affected by the tornado, and there will be a donation campaign set up so that library workers and friends across the country can reach out to help our colleagues in need. As soon as they have identified a local organization that can receive donations on behalf of the library staff, they will make donation information available to members via AL Direct and ask members to share the information via ALA Connect groups and various member discussion lists. ALA will work with Jacque Gage at Joplin Public and other libraries affected to identify a local organization to receive the donations.

Update on Sedalia Public Library

In the wake of the Joplin tornado, a tornado struck Sedalia on May 25. Pam Hunter, Director of Sedalia Public Library, posted the following on a Missouri discussion list:

The library, staff, and patrons are all physically fine. We took cover in the basement area until it passed over us. The tornado hit in the southern section of Sedalia along Hwy 65 and did extensive damage in several areas there. Two of our staff had property damage, but I do not have a report of the extent of that damage at this time. We have had calls from Fox News from New York; Fox 4 from Kansas City; and CBS from Kansas City. So I guess the library is considered a news source for the stations. It was incorrectly reported that the Sedalia Public Library was damaged by debris, but that news report was not accurate. We were very fortunate to have come thru the storm without any damage. Of course our nerves are a bit shaken.

Emergency Management Partnerships Toolkit

Libraries that assist communities with emergency services need to determine in which phase they will participate: planning, preparing, responding, and recovering. The American Library Association (ALA) Committee on Legislation (COL) produced a toolkit with tips and guidance to assist librarians in planning, managing, funding and promoting E-Government services including how to develop emergency management partnerships with government officials. Go to their [Web site](#) for emergency planning tips and resources.

Emergency and Disaster Resources Webinar

Barbara Jones, Missouri Liaison for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, will discuss consumer health resources addressing emergencies and disasters, the potential role public libraries can play in an emergency or disaster, as well as how medical and hospital libraries are preparing for emergencies and disasters in their communities in a **FREE**, one-hour Webinar on **June 28, 2011, at 10 a.m.** [Reserve your place today](#) as seats are limited.

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